

SPRING 2019 JEFFERSON PARISH PUBLIC SCHOOLS REPORT CARD



One of the foundational pillars of a prosperous and thriving community is a quality educational system. Education is essential for workforce preparation, keeping Jefferson Parish competitive in a global economy, and overall economic prosperity.



The Jefferson Parish Public School System has had uneven progress since 2010. There is ample room for improvement as JPPSS still underperforms in comparison to regional and national school systems based on standardized test scores, graduation rates, and teacher resources.



Providing a successful system that supports both students and educators requires broad-based support and investment from the entire community. To gain that support, leadership within the School District must show the public it is willing to be proactive and make the necessary changes to improve performance across the system.



The recent appointment of the new School Superintendent provides a unique opportunity to take stock and create a strategy to provide our children with the quality education they deserve and gain the support of the community as a whole.

Overview

Challenges

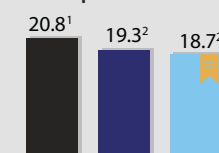
- Low Performance scores and graduation rate compared to the State and National averages, which can impact Jefferson Parish's competitiveness.
- Average teacher salaries are lower than those of the state and country, making it challenging to retain and attract competitive talent.
- Lack of public confidence in the school system, which is required to have successful referendums and millages.

Opportunities

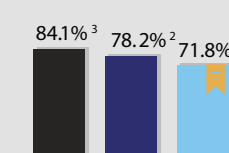
- Fresh start for administration and leadership to show it is willing to make necessary changes and improvements.
- Residents and local leaders have the opportunity to come together and invest in Jefferson Parish Public Schools, improving educational outcomes and attracting talented teachers.

Performance Snapshot

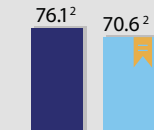
2017-2018 ACT
Best Composite Scores



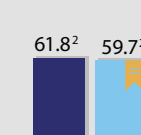
2016-2017
Graduation Rates




2018 District
Performance Scores



2018 K-8
Assessment Index



2018-2019 AVERAGE STARTING TEACHER SALARY

 \$60,483⁴ U.S. \$50,256⁴ Louisiana \$41,199 Jefferson Parish

 United States
  Louisiana
  Jefferson Parish

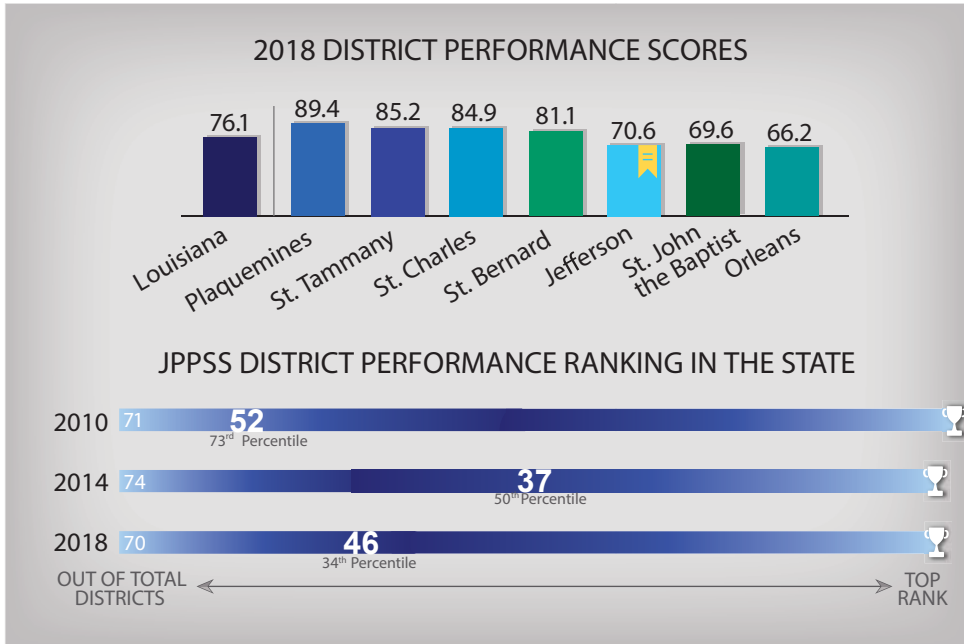


Grading JPPSS

Jefferson Parish’s Public Schools have seen uneven improvements since 2010. We take a look at several indicators to see how our students are faring across the state and the nation.

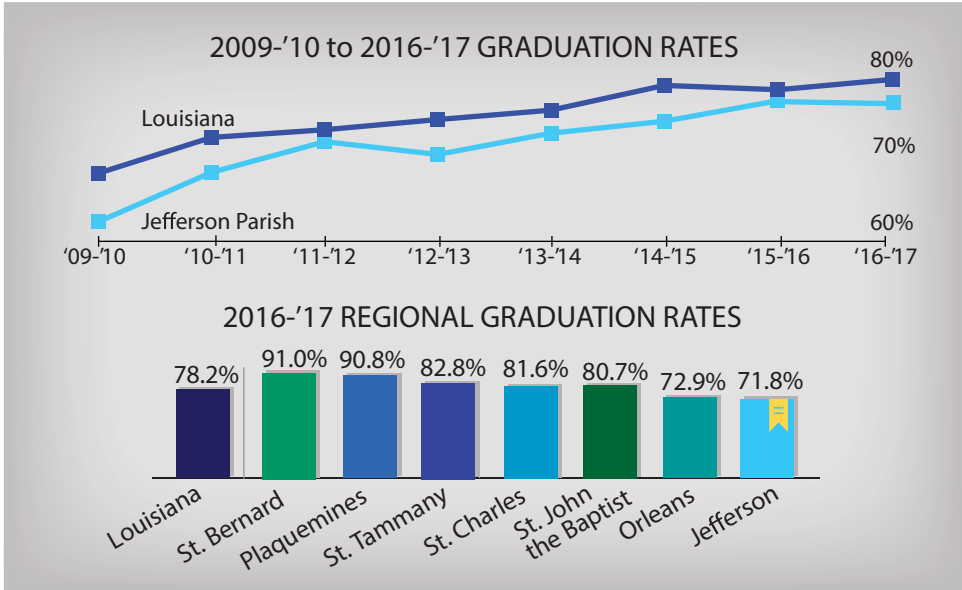
District Performance Scores

Jefferson Parish’s District Performance Scores from 2018 lag behind most parishes in the region and lag at Statewide levels.



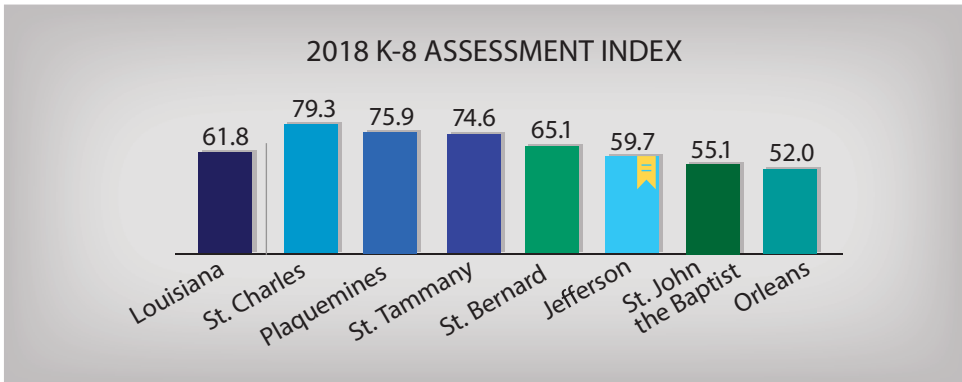
Graduation Rates

The graduation rate is a fundamental criteria to gauge the success of a school system. Although Jefferson Parish is performing below neighboring parishes, the graduation rate has steadily increased on par with the state average since 2010.



K-8 Assessment Index

The K-8 Assessment is a combination of Louisiana’s LEAP tests, taken by 4th and 8th graders to measure student performance against the standards of what they are expected to know at their specific stage of education, and English language proficiency scores for English learners. In 2018, Jefferson’s assessment index was the third lowest among surrounding parishes.

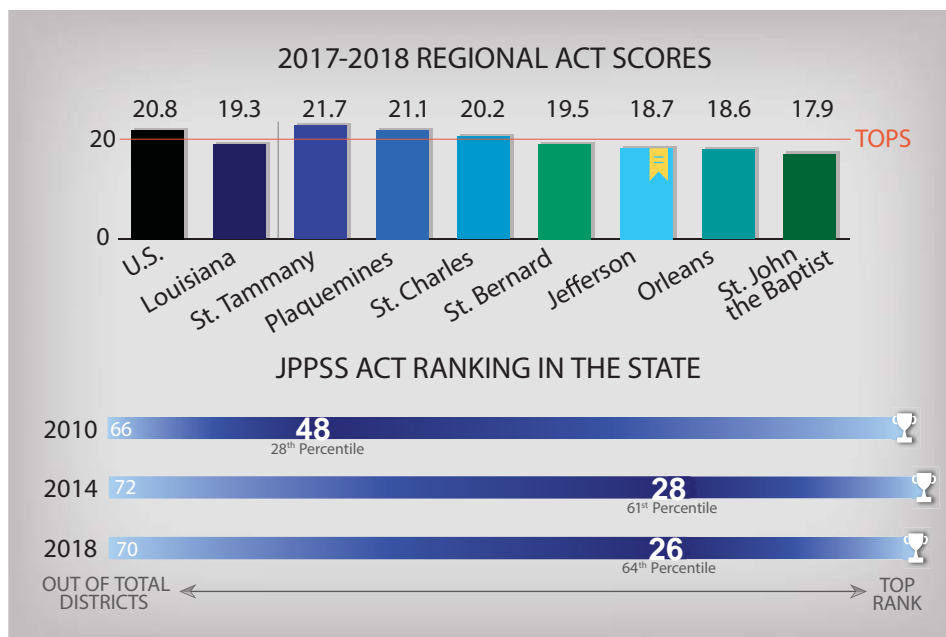




ACT Scores

An ACT score of 20 is required to receive the Opportunity Award from the TOPS program. While Act Scores in Jefferson Parish increased from 18.5 in 2010 to 18.7 in 2018, ranking in the 64th percentile in 2018 up from the 28th in 2010, the parish still lags behind the rest of the state.

ACT scores in Jefferson Parish indicate students are not prepared to enter a 4-year college or university.

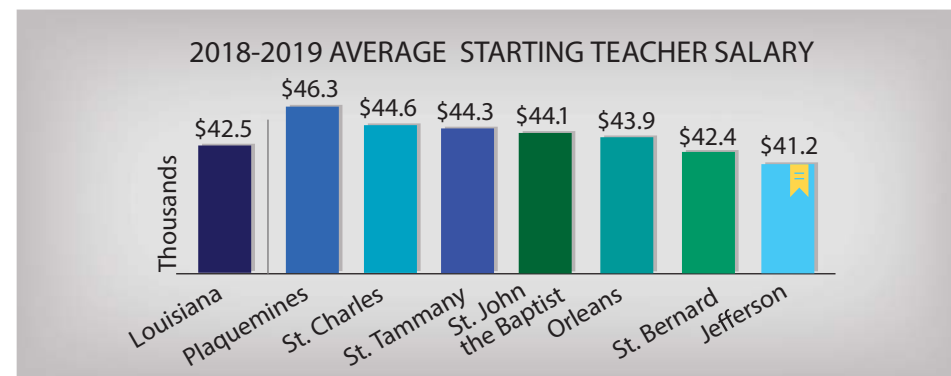


Resources for Educators

Compensation

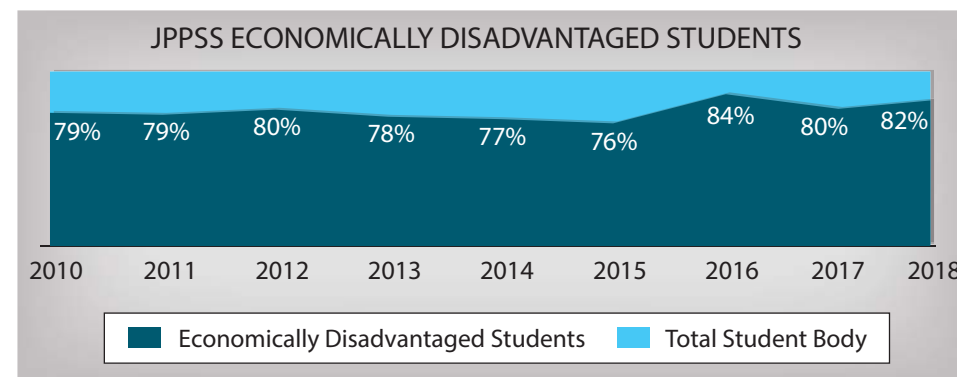
The average starting teacher salary in Jefferson Parish was \$41,199 with a Bachelors' Degree in the 2018-2019 school year. Veteran teacher's compensation is on par with state averages, while those with less experience make 4% to 12% less than the state average.

Low teacher pay comes at a high cost for schools and kids, who lose good teachers to better-paying professions. Some 20% of new public-school teachers leave the profession by the end of the first year, and almost half leave within five years.⁵



Challenges Outside the Classroom

One of the bigger challenges facing both students and teachers in Jefferson Parish is that the majority (82%) of students face economic disadvantages⁷. Circumstances outside of the classroom associated with poverty, such as hunger, unstable housing, and a lack of access to healthcare impact performance within the classroom. It is difficult for students to learn when they are hungry, tired, or in distress.





Looking Forward

What the scores tell us about JPPSS



As enrollment increases throughout the Jefferson Parish Public School System, there is an opportunity to engage new families and provide opportunities for a more diverse student body to learn the skills needed to be successful in our ever-evolving economy. The student body has increased by over 4,000 students since 2010, with a growing proportion of Hispanic students and a sharp increase in the number of English Language Learners in the District. From the 2008-2009 school year to the 2017-2018 school year, the number of English Learners has increased 104% from 3,705 to 7,567 students. As the District has become more diverse, there is a greater need for English Language courses and curriculum.

Uneven progress denotes the need for positive change throughout the school district. A new Superintendent provides an opportunity for the community to come together to initiate this change, improving performance and increasing resources for teachers and students.

Glossary



ACT

The American College Test assesses college readiness in English, Math, Reading and Science.



District Performance Scores

Combination of several variables to compositely score the entire district.



End-of-Course Tests (EOC)

EOCs are designed to measure whether students have mastered the knowledge, skills, and abilities at the end of courses. the content of the assessments is based on Grade Level Expectations.



LEAP

Louisiana Educational Assessment Program tests whether 4th and 8th grade students have the knowledge and skills to progress to the next grade.



Standardized Test

A common indicator of performance and provides a comparison.



TOPS

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS). Provides financial assistance awards to attend state college.

1 Source: ACT Profile Report

2 Source: Louisiana Department of Education

3 Source: National Center for Education Statistics 2015-2016 National Graduation Rate

4 Source: National Education Association

5 Source: NEA Collective Bargaining/Member Advocacy's Teacher Salary Database

6 Source: Louisiana Department of Education. Salary, without additional compensation, for teachers with one year of experience and a Bachelor's Degree. Standard "State Average" uses all compensation; excludes ROTC, sabbaticals, salary reductions, and rehires and excludes post-secondary, 3rd-party, and contract services staff.

7 Students eligible for SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, awaiting foster care, migrant, and incarcerated children.